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Chef Masters Raises Over \$25k to Strengthen Local Food Security



On Sunday, September 27th, Abound Food Care was the beneficiary for the annual Chef Masters event in Laguna Beach, California. This event brought together over 340 community members and 60 chefs all to celebrate and uplift the local charitable feeding network and fight food insecurity.

The event helped Abound Food Care raise over \$25k in funds to help further our work in optimizing food systems to create healthy and food secure communities. The night featured a large array of delicious food and drinks graciously donated and prepared by the participating chefs. The event program featured a powerful speech from our board member Dr. Anthony Boger, and live entertainment from the cover band Flashback Heart Attack.

We would like to thank everyone who attended that night with a very special thanks to all the donors and sponsors!

[Click Here to View Photos from the Event](#)

Our New Website is Live: Discover Abound Food Care's Work and Impact



Abound Food Care has launched a new website that reflects the strategic direction we developed through our strategic planning process. The website is designed to clearly explain who we are, what our programs do, and the real impact our work has on nonprofit organizations, partners, and communities. It is easy to navigate and will include useful information, resources, testimonials, and opportunities for stakeholders to learn more and connect with our work. The website also helps us keep everyone updated on new

projects, upcoming events, and the latest impact numbers from across our programs. We would like to extend a special thank you to Kim Stanick, a valued member of the Abound Food Care Advisory Committee, for the tremendous support, expertise, and strategic guidance she has provided throughout this process.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Partnering with the City of Seal Beach to Strengthen Edible Food Recovery

Abound Food Care is partnering with the **City of Seal Beach** to implement a comprehensive Edible Food Recovery program that will support the City's compliance with California's SB 1383 requirements while strengthening the local food recovery system. The program will include outreach and education, technical assistance, compliance inspections, and support with data tracking and reporting. Abound encouraged the City to apply for the **Orange County Waste & Recycling** Edible Food Recovery Grant to help fund this work, and on June 26, Seal Beach was notified that it had been selected to receive funding. In preparation for the program launch, Abound has already worked with City staff to update its list of edible food generators and food recovery organizations and assess current compliance, with initial outreach and education expected to begin in late October to early November.

Orange County Comes Together for Hunger Action Month

September is recognized as **Hunger Action Month**, a nationwide Feeding America campaign that raises awareness of food insecurity and encourages people to take action by volunteering, donating, and advocating for equitable access to nutritious food. The **OC Hunger Alliance's Advocacy Working Group** coordinated Hunger Action Month proclamations across Orange County's 34 cities and the County Board of Supervisors. Representatives from OCHA member organizations attended city council meetings throughout the county, helping shine a light on local food insecurity and gain recognition for the Alliance's collaborative work to ensure everyone in Orange County has access to the food they need to thrive. We are grateful to our elected officials for their partnership, leadership, and commitment to addressing food insecurity across Orange County.



New Grant Program Strengthens Food Access and Food Recovery Across Sacramento County

Abound Food Care recently launched a new grant program through the **Capital Food Access Alliance** to help strengthen food access and edible food recovery across **Sacramento County**. The grant program offers \$125,000 in supplemental funding to help organizations that had previously applied for a CFAA grant to increase their capacity, improve Tier 1 and Tier 2 food recovery and distribution operations, develop collaborative projects, and reduce barriers to serving communities experiencing food insecurity. Additional funding may become available depending on the outcome of Expansion Grant extensions and other program considerations.

The program opened on August 5, and funds will be disbursed by the end of October 2026. Eligible organizations could request up to \$25,000, while collaborative applications involving multiple nonprofit organizations and Tier 2 food recovery programs could request up to \$50,000. Organizations seeking to strengthen Tier 2 food recovery could also request additional staffing support for generator outreach, onboarding, training, and reporting. Abound encouraged and prioritized collaborative proposals that bring organizations together to expand their collective impact.

Connecting Sacramento Businesses with Local Food Recovery Organizations

In August, Abound Food Care and the Capital Food Access Alliance (CFAA) launched a Tier 2 pilot program to help Sacramento food recovery organizations (FROs) expand their capacity to recover additional types of edible food from local businesses. The pilot uses Carelt, a data management and tracking platform, to help connect food generators with recovery organizations and streamline food recovery operations.

As part of the pilot, participating food generators receive information about their SB 1383 requirements, introductions to participating FROs, assistance with onboarding to Carelt, technical support, and guidance on record keeping and inspection requirements. The pilot will help identify opportunities to strengthen food recovery partnerships and improve the ability of local FROs to safely and efficiently recover additional Tier 2 food.